

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR WASATCH

WRITTEN FOR THE DESERT NEWS BY FRANK E. ARNOLD.



Upper Left—The tabernacle at Heber City, a distinctive type of church architecture in Utah.
Upper Right—Wagons loaded with wool valued at \$10,000 on a Heber City street on way to railroad.
Lower Left—Hiram Winterton and four sons on the range in the "Herefordshire" of Utah.
Lower Right—Pure-bred Herefords on the Strawberry range.

Most Utahns think they know their Wasatch because they have had the Wasatch range to gaze at all the days of their life, or because they have penetrated the Wasatch canyons and camped on Wasatch streams.

The real Wasatch is Wasatch county, the heart of the Wasatch range, and not until you have crossed it by the main highway from Park City to the Strawberry Valley or climbed up Provo canyon and explored Heber City and the nearby hamlets, not until then do you get an inkling of what Wasatch county really is. It is a land of almost feudal estates where men like Senator Clay own thousands of acres of grazing land and hundreds of acres of irrigated land. If you come in by Park City entrance you think it must be a land of horses, for nowhere in the state do you find such luxuriant fields of timothy. You might also think yourself in the Bernese Oberland for on entering the valley from this direction you get the finest view of Timpanogos. Provo may be the most advertising with Timpanogos, but the best view of the mountain is from the east side across the hay fields of Wasatch county. It is as superb as that of the Longhorn across the meadows of Texas. A genuinely Swiss panorama, up as it is of mountains with permanent snow in the back and a view of fertile farms and fields in the foreground.

The Real Wasatch

Wasatch mountain views have been the desert to suggest Switzerland. You may, however, think you have seen a Swiss mountain range or a valley in Germany when you come into Wasatch from the north, but if you come in by way of the Rio Grande valley, you have a most typical view of the county, a mountainous valley studied with hay fields and surrounded with range country; and this is the real Wasatch. The other views are only picturesque possibilities.

Wasatch county has a mineral head at the north in its out-croppings of the Park City veins and also mineral feet at the south in Soldier Summit, but its heart is all wool—and more than a yard wide. Most Wasatch people live, move, and have their being with the sheep. Owing to the best summer range in the state with its abundant browse that sheep love above all else and its equally abundant grasses so fattening for lambs, the lambs come off the summer range in such fine condition that they do not have to be fattened and lambing brings the top market.

In spring and in fall the sheep pass through in bands of two or three thousand on their way to spring pasture or to winter range on the west desert in Tooele, Millard, and Juab counties, or on the east desert in southern Utah county; and so these counties get credit for a great many Wasatch sheep, when the assessors make their enumerations in January. It takes a band of sheep a long time to go by. As one Heber City girl said, she could wash and wipe all the family dinner dishes while they were going by and then the herd would still be trailing by.

You can sit a horse and watch the rippling, wavelike movement of the sheep backs and see the dogs round them up, for a good sheep dog is worth two men. The Wasatch county sheep herders are all local men. No Bascos nor Mexicans need apply.

Their First Ambition

Most Wasatch boys dream of being cowboys as their first ambition, but most of them become sheep herders, for sheep herding is an ancient and honorable profession, dating back to Abraham and Lydian, and the Heber City girls are just as glad to marry sheep herders as cowboys.

The Heber City high school always sends many of its graduates to the Agricultural College at Logan, and many of the boys pay their way through college by herding sheep in summer. They begin their ovine career by bringing up "bunch" lambs that have fallen by the wayside from passing flocks, and these lambs give them their first insight into animal husbandry and home economics. Because every Heber City back yard has two or three, and back yard husbandry is far more common than back yard poultry.

A Breakin' Town

Heber City is a breakin' town. You want to linger there for days, it is so attractive. Even if the loads of ore going by early in the morning wake you before cock-crow you have a feeling that this is the place. It is the town in Utah that does not have a single Lombardy poplar, but the Cottonwoods line the streets, and arch over them as lovingly and as gracefully as the elms do in New England. The leading hostelry is most homelike and the waitress, whether she talks of "ham" or "early calls, has a voice as soft and pleasing as April.

which have the sterling virtues that have made Santa Clara and Berne the most thrifty settlements in the west.

A Corner on Prizes

And then, too, there is Charleston, called by W. H. Olin, the Herefordshire of Utah. Here dwell three big breeders of Hereford stock, the Winterton Brothers, J. C. Whiting and Son, and John M. Richie. There are also smaller breeders in Walsburg, such as James Allen. These four breeders always capture all the Hereford prizes at the State Fair and to encourage the breeding of Hereford stock they have by a special permit from the Forest Service a fenced off pasture in the Strawberry Valley. The purebred business requires time and attention and the Charleston stock men have been in it ever since they got the idea from Prof. John T. Gains III at an Agricultural Institute about twelve years ago. The result is that from four to five thousand head of beef cattle are shipped out of Wasatch county each year. Last year there were 149 cars of cattle that went out. The county furnishes the best grade of beef in the state. This is due to excellent range as well as breeding. The county has and pure bred bulls on the range for many years. The beef is marketed mostly in California and brings a quarter of a cent more per pound than other western beef.

Other Resources

Thus with sheep and cattle your major impression of Wasatch county is that its master passions are widely ovine or bovine. Such, however, is not the case. The other resources of the county. You talk with the county agent and you will find that the Wasatch fields will produce as the peas, cabbage, and cauliflower as Morgan county; that W. H. Olin says, and he knows that Wasatch is heavy on its own appointed district to raise head lettuce; and that the marshy fields around Charleston could produce a tremendous celery as does any Utah land. And when you hear that Heber county celery is bringing \$2.50 a crate in California as against \$1.00 for California celery you wonder why Wasatch does not get in on this profitable celery game.

The Wasatch farmers have already shown that their high valley will produce certified potato seed and certified wheat, but as a rule a live stock man is not a farmer and those who have extensive live stock interests are very hard to turn their attention to other agricultural crops.

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